

ing, but rather gain in its scientific value, seems to have been clearly demonstrated. Let us grow still more—let us double our present membership before next April, and then we may look forward to a still bigger attendance, to a yet more tranquil business session, and to an even superior scientific program. This may be done if each one will help all he can.

The State Board of Health recently passed resolutions recommending the removal of "Chinatown" from its present location in the heart of San Francisco. The Board asserts that the presence of "a large alien and unassimilable population is a constant menace to the health, commerce and industries, not only of the city itself, but also of the State and even the nation at large." Just how the removal is to be effected has not yet been announced, but doubtless some way will be suggested. In Honolulu the Chinese quarter became unsanitary and otherwise objectionable, and very heroic measures were taken to cleanse the disease-breeding locality. It was purified with fire. Probably the torch could not safely be employed in ridding San Francisco of its pest-hole, but until the dozen blocks are absolutely obliterated and the ground which is now saturated with filth, be given liberal treatment with chloride of lime and carbolic acid, the quarter will require close watching. Work of the right sort has been done and is being prosecuted by the Federal, State and City health officers acting in harmony, and Chinatown is just now cleaner than it ever was before. That is saying a great deal, but the disinfection must be continued, in fact be constant, in order to render the quarter safe.

#### THE REPORT OF THE A. M. A. COMMITTEE ON MEDICAL EDUCATION.

The JOURNAL has not had time as yet to consider even a moiety of the work done by the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association at the New Orleans meeting, but it wishes to begin this task at once and will therefore call attention to one committee report, that on medical education. It is to be noted in this connection that the address of President Billings was on the subject of medical education in the United States, and that it has also been the subject of papers by Vaughn of Ann Arbor, De Schweinitz of Washington, D. C., and Parsons of Albany (these three in the *Journal of the A. M. A.* for 25 April, 1903) so that it is plain that the subject is one prominently before the professional mind just at present, and it is not at all unlikely that the report of the committee here to be referred to mirrors the consensus of opinion of many men not on the committee. The report refers to the fact

that elevation of the standard of medical education was among the original objects of the American Medical Association, and was so stated in 1846. It calls attention to the fact that national legislation can never accomplish this, for it cannot infringe on the internal government of any State in the matter, and in these words it emphasizes the need, the obvious need, of the raising of the standard:

Medicine demands a better order of intellect and better preparation than is possessed by the poorer part of the men who are to-day entering its ranks in America. The other great world powers, our competitors in commerce, art and science, demand in their medical men as a minimum requirement a preliminary education equal to or more than our best high schools, and then five years of medical study. Such requirements are none too high, and we in this country cannot much longer afford to remain satisfied with anything in medicine short of the best.

A means of accomplishing the end is suggested; namely, the establishment of an educational prerequisite for admission to the American Medical Association, as it is above and includes all universities and medical schools, all examining boards and all State and County Societies. It is in this that the real point of the recommendation lies, and it shows very quickly the result of the unification of the profession. For if this report is adopted—it has up to the present only been accepted and ordered printed—it will be obligatory on each State Society to pass a similar resolution, and then each county will have to do the same, and it will come to pass that the standard set by the central organization will be that for the smallest integral part of it.

The recommendation is not too sweeping to be practical and easily put in force. It is merely that no man be eligible to the Association who has not had a high school education, or its equivalent, and has not studied medicine four years, and at least seven months each year. Moreover, this regulation is not to go into effect until 1908, so as to give time for all State and county societies to conform to it, and especially for all medical schools to set their courses in conformity with it.

There is one thing, however, which is obvious at the very beginning—the standard is too low so far as the preliminary education is concerned. It is not possible for a man to get out of a high school education all of the training necessary to enable him to successfully grasp the questions of medical science in their entirety. Medicine draws from practically every other science, and uses them all in the making of diagnoses or the prosecution of courses of treatment. A great deal more than the high school smattering is absolutely essential for the medical student, and the medical practitioner is going to need very much more than the student. But while this is true, it is still right for the Association not to demand too much at this time; it will be easier to screw